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A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Chief Engineer's report has not yet been received.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 2418, Revenue, dated the 15th October 1920, which has been placed at the disposal of the press, and to the answer to question No. 666 given on 26th November 1928.

(*d*) The Government consider that it is unnecessary to place the Board's report on the table as the Government Order contains the substance of the Board's recommendations. The question whether the Chief Engineer's report should be placed on the table will be considered after it is received.

Assessment on the nanja lands in Madurantakam taluk for raising panipayar.

*378 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Subdivisional Officer of Chingleput taxed the nanja lands in the Madurantakam taluk for raising panipayar about twenty days before the harvest of samba paddy in the months of February and March and if so, why it was collected contrary to the usual practice in the Chingleput district;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that the panipayar crop does not require water;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that the panipayar crop is generally raised for manure;

(*d*) whether the Government is aware that the panipayar crop has not been taxed by the Government previously, particularly in the Chingleput district;

(*e*) whether the Government consider the taxation unjust; and

(*f*) if answer to (*e*) be in the affirmative, whether the Government will order the refund of taxes collected in the Madurantakam taluk?

A.—(*a*) to (*f*) The Government have not the information. A report has been called for.

Forests

Removal of the bar to promotion in the Ranger's cadre.

*379 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the proposals before them for alleviating the bar to promotion in the Ranger's cadre and the order, if any, passed by the Government thereon?

A.—The Rangers have submitted memorials setting forth their grievances and they are under the consideration of Government.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member for how long this memorial has been under the consideration of Government?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"It will be disposed of as early as possible. How long it has been under consideration I am not able to say."

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Installation of a paper and pulp plant at Papanasam.

* 380 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether any and if so, what decision has been arrived at about the installation of a paper and pulp plant to utilize the reed in Papanasam?

A.—The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Instead of saying as usual that the matter is under the consideration of Government, at least with regard to this matter, I hope the hon. Member may be a little . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think I shall be justified in permitting the hon. Member to make a speech. This occasion is intended only for putting supplementary questions."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member when this is likely to be disposed of?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"As I said before, as early as possible; I am not in a position to state more definitely than that."

Grievances of Forest Rangers in the Presidency.

* 381 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether forest rangers in the Presidency submitted to Government in 1927 and in 1929 and foresters in April 1929 memorials setting forth their grievances, especially on the score of the stagnation in their services and requesting early redress of their grievances;

(*b*) why the subordinate forest service is not given time-scale of pay;

(*c*) whether foresters in the Logging Engineering Division are subjected to special hardships; and, if so, what allowance is granted to them;

(*d*) what other grievances in the subordinate forest services have come to the notice of Government; and

(*e*) what action Government have taken to redress them?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Please see answer to clauses (*c*) and (*d*). The question is under consideration.

(*c*) In view of the fact that the work of these foresters is responsible and entails additional expense, a class I allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem is sanctioned to them. The foresters are also eligible for a class IV allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem when their work lies in unhealthy localities.

(*d*) & (*e*) The officers in the subordinate forest services, rangers, foresters and forest guards have recently memorialized Government that a time-scale of pay should be sanctioned to them instead of the present graded pay. The rangers ask also for an increase in the leave reserve to 25 per cent. The foresters also request that 75 per cent of the selection of candidates for deputation to the Forest College should be reserved for them. These questions are now under consideration.